

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Update on the performance of students at the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) as indicated by CATS scores (Charts are confidential and under separate cover since some scores represent less than ten students)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 167.015

History/Background:

The Kentucky Board of Education has been reviewing the programs at these two schools since the inception of the CATS system. Initially, the schools were not performing at a level that would get the schools to proficiency by 2014. That realization prompted intensive interventions at both schools that ultimately led to the drafting of the Five Year Implementation Plan, approved in August 2004.

Due to the hard work of the staffs at both schools and the assistance provided by Kentucky Department of Education staff, the CATS scores have consistently risen over the past few years; however, because of the small numbers of students at each school, there are occasional peaks and valleys in the scores because in some grades for some content areas, there may be just one or two students that were tested. The charts (confidential and under separate cover since some scores represent less than ten students) show the latest figures from each school and a summary of the areas that need further attention. The staffs at each school are continuing to address the areas that need improvement while building on the successful practices that are in place.

Policy Issue(s):

In order to continue the progress that has been made at each school, continued support and assistance have to be provided from a variety of sources. Additionally, if KSB and KSD are to fulfill their roles as models for instruction for students with sensory loss and as statewide comprehensive resource centers, the KBE and KDE will have to continue to provide guidance and support to ensure the completion of the Implementation Plan. The discussion about the performance of the students at these two schools needs to take place within the broader picture of how all students with disabilities perform statewide.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

KDE will continue to provide support, guidance and assistance to the staffs at KSD and KSB in the implementation of educational best practices and appropriate services that will move all students to proficiency.

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